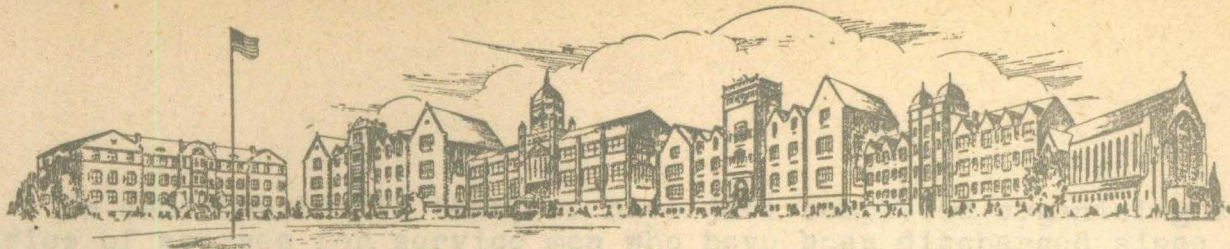


from



MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

December 28, 1945

Number 77

Dear Fellows:

I can think of no better way to close this year of Victory than to spend a couple of hours with you fellows still in uniform to catch you up on the news of the past few weeks. There really has been news and here is just a bit of it.

First of all, in a limited way, we launched the campaign that is beamed at raising \$500,000 to build that new field house we all have been dreaming about. The preliminary phases have concerned themselves with industries and individuals who, for tax purposes, are anxious to make their contributions during the closing days of 1945. That part of the campaign, President Tyson has just told us, is meeting with marked success and the community really is indicating its appreciation of what Muhlenberg and Muhlenberg trained men have been doing. The public part of the campaign and the section extending to the alumni will get underway intensively shortly after the start of the new year with every hope of reaching the goal--and passing it--by the end of January. The Alumni have pledged to raise \$150,000 of the goal and there are many who think they will do even better than that.

This field house--the center of a real program of physical education--has been a Muhlenberg dream for a long time and all of us are now determined to bring it to fruition at the earliest possible moment. But you will be hearing more of that in a few weeks.

Other important news centers about the meeting of the Board of Trustees the week before Christmas. Reviewing, with Dr. Tyson, Muhlenberg's remarkable record during the war years and its plans for the future, the Board issued directives giving the green light to several important projects. Listed for immediate action were:

1. Establishment of a new five-year program for the training of teachers with courses leading to both the bachelor degree and the degree of master of science in education. Dr. Tyson and members of the Faculty now are working on the curriculum which will be unique in that it will space the professional education courses over the last three of the five years and afford the time for enriched academic courses. The program is to get underway no later than next Fall.

2. Organization of a new top-notch department of Student Health, Physical Education, and Inter-collegiate Athletics that will begin functioning shortly after January 1 under the direction of an acting director who will be professor of physical education. We thought we'd be able to give you the name of the director in this letter, but that will have to wait until we write to you the next time.

3. Establishment of a new series of so-called terminal courses to meet the needs of both men and women who desire specific training for a particular task, rather than the broad general liberal arts education, and to assist industries in training those in their employ.

4. Organization of a new Department of Education and expansion of evening and Saturday classes for those unable to attend regular college classes.

5. Strengthening the Faculty by additions to several of the academic departments that provide the pre-professional and liberal arts courses that have earned Muhlenberg an academic rating that has placed it in the top ranks of America's liberal arts colleges.

TO ITS MEN WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM

In addition to all that, we have just completed organizing a new series of courses for service men who have been discharged since the new semester began last November and who are anxious to begin their college education before the term begins on March 1. Those men will enter college January 3 and will be able to complete a semester's requirement in certain limited subjects before they begin a full term's work in March. Incidentally, it looks as if the enrollment for the March term also will jump.

Then we're busy on winding up the Naval Academic Refresher Training program that formally closes with a graduation ceremony on Saturday, January 5, at 11:00 a.m. The speaker will be Rear Admiral O.S. Colclough, a neighbor from Catasauqua, who now is Judge Advocate General of the Navy. But like you follows, we aren't quite ready to return to a 100 per cent civilian status and there are indications that the Navy has at least one more important assignment for us.

We can't give you any more news about basketball because in the last letter we brought you up to date on the pre-holiday schedule which ended with the 55 to 36 defeat of Penn State at Penn State on December 12. The boys have been keeping in shape and are set for the second part of the season which gets underway when we play Princeton in Allentown on January 2. Penn State comes here for a return game on Saturday, January 5; on January 9 we play Franklin and Marshall at Lancaster, and on January 16, Lafayette in Allentown. By that time we'll be writing you another letter to bring you up to date on the scores and the rest of the games.

To the best of our knowledge no Muhlenberg men were aboard the SS MUHLENBERG VICTORY when it brought its first load of veterans home on December 18 in time for the Christmas holidays. More than 1,500 troops were on board for the stormy Atlantic crossing.

Just before Christmas we had a long talk with CAPT. RAYMOND E. BRESSLER '39, just home from more than three years in the European theatre with the Eighth Air Force and ready to begin his civilian practice of dentistry in Tower City. Ray believes he is the only Muhlenberg man to come home with an English bride. He was married at Rounds, England on October 21, 1944 to Alma O. Munloy and is the father of a son, Raymond Malcolm, born in England on September 20, 1945. Ray is waiting patiently for the priorities needed to bring his wife and youngster back to their new home in the United States. Of his 41 months in service, 39 were spent overseas.

BILL YOUNG '42, navigator on a B-29 that had 22 combat missions over Japan and Korea, also has become a civilian. He was in the other day wearing the air medal with three clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded for a mining mission off the coast of Japan, and three combat stars. Also back in civvies after some 2,000 hours of Navy flying is LT. WARDELL STEIGERWALT '42 whose last assignment was as a co-pilot in the Navy's Air Transport Squadron No. 1. He was in service for three and one half years before being placed in inactive status on December 12.

FRANK TAYLOR '42 who entered Navy service October 1942 as an apprentice seaman and who wound up as a lieutenant, junior grade, also dropped in to show us that he still looks well in brown. His service ribbons and stars indicate duty aboard a baby carrier in both the Atlantic and in the Pacific.

We haven't seen LT. HENRY BAUMAN '39 since he laid his uniform aside, but his publicity man informed the general public that the son of Allentown's new postmaster has come home. During 53 months of service he was shunted from infantry to airborne troops and to a light division that used mules for transportation. After that, Hank believes he can handle everything. ARLAN BOND '42, whom we told you about before, is now on terminal leave and is thinking seriously of becoming a student again. CAPT. DILL ALBRIGHT '33 of the Army Medical Corps also checked in just before Christmas. Since coming home from overseas last Spring he has been stationed at Indiantown Gap. Now he is ready to begin private practice somewhere in the Allentown area.

The only romantic news we have been able to pick up concerns the engagement of CHARLES A. MILLER, USNR, V-45 to Irene M. Szabo of Allentown and the marriage of Mary C. Reinhardt of Allentown, a WAVE, to KENNETH E. JONES '45, still working hard at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. That reminds us that THOMPSON FERRIER '43 was placed on inactive status by the Navy the day before Christmas and now makes his regular visits to Allentown in civvies. He is continuing his studies in medical school as a civilian.

One of the weddings that may interest some of you fellows was the very pretty one in the Gideon F. Egner Memorial chapel the day after Christmas when Dorothy Shankweiler, Doc's lovely daughter, became the bride of Major Metro Bodnyk of the regular Army, now home on a 45-day leave from his post in France. While we're on the subject of sons and daughters, President Tyson's family was together for Christmas, including Lt. James Tyson, now on terminal leave, and ENSIGN DAVID TYSON '45, home on leave from his base in Florida.

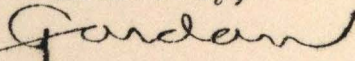
And here's a sampling of the mail: CAPT. KENNY LAMBERT '39, still stationed in Germany, did a little visiting in Czechoslovakia and reports that the Russians have withdrawn almost in toto. His visit left him quite confused, but he can tell us all about that at the Victory Reunion. The alumni letters are reaching LT.(jg) JIM HEMSTREET '44 over at Buckner Bay, Okinawa. He had a visit with BOB RANKEN '44 before the latter left for the States, and with CPL. GEORGE WOODLEY '44, who flew up for a visit from Manila where he is working in a hospital. WILMER CRESSMAN '42, wrote his last letter from Shanghai. He now is second in command of the USS GREENWICH BAY but has time to visit the officers club on the sixth floor of what once was a hotel. His description (of the club) sounds so interesting that if we'd be Milly we'd be just a bit worried about when Wil will return. A Christmas letter from BRUCE HANDELONG '45 was datelined Cuba. The new destroyer he is aboard is having its shakedown cruise in the Caribbean. Out in the Philippines, where he occasionally sees ENSIGN PAUL BLEILER '45, JAMES GLAAB V-44 is keeping busy at a base in Subic bay that is repairing ships before they begin their trips to the United States.

After pulling into Okinawa Shima, ENSIGN MERVIN SHUMAN V-44 met CARL SLEMMER '45, who is with an amphibious group and who expects to head on to China or Korea, and AL STEAD '43, who is on a Flotilla flagship. He also reports having heard from DANNY SIMONS who is in Tsingao, China. Merv himself is probably on Guam by this time, but by next Fall he hopes to be back at Muhlenthal. ENSIGN CHARLES BUPP '46, who chased his ship for two months, finally caught up with her at Saipan. Enroute, he visited Tokyo and confirmed the good job American bombers had done. He is hoping to hit the States by Spring.

From the mail we also learn that HAROLD BOWMAN '31 has returned to civilian life as art director for his old firm, the Abbott Kimball advertising agency in New York; that MATEAN KUNKLE '30 has been discharged and is back at the Delaware Water Gap High School; that MAURICE PURCELL '31 has left his Navy assignment at Annapolis and now is assistant security officer for UNNRA at its headquarters in Washington; that LT.(jg) AL SWANK '29 is probably back home in New Rochelle, N.Y. by this time; and that CHARLIE HOPPES '32 is out of service ready to resume teaching in Lohighton.

Because this is really a holiday season for the staff around here and because the ladies of the Auxiliary are busy with their holiday chores, we'll cut this letter short with the wish that you'll all be home soon and that the new year will be the best you have ever had. Thanks again for making it a year of peace for all of us.

Sincerely,



Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office

P.S. Thanks much for the many Christmas greetings we received from you fellows.